

# SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

VOL. XII.

BENTON, MO., APRIL 5, 1913

NO 17

## UTTERANCES OF PERSONS GONE.

### Suppressed by the Ruling Powers.--They Won't Even Quote Christ on the Rich and the Poor.

"In the days of savagery the strong devoured the weak--actually ate their flesh. In spite of all the laws that man has made, in spite of all advances in science, literature and art, the strong, the cunning, the heartless, still live on the weak, the unfortunate and the foolish. True, they do not eat their flesh; they do not drink their blood; but they live on their labor, on their self-denial, their weariness and want. The poor man who deforms himself by toil; who labors for a wife and child thru all his anxious, barren wasted life, who goes to the grave without having had one luxury, has been the food of others."

"HE HAS BEEN DEVoured BY THE YELLOW MAN."

"The poor woman, living in the bare and lonely room, cheerless and fireless, sewing night and day to keep starvation from a child, is slowly being eaten by her fellow man."

"When I take into consideration the agony of civilized life--the number of failures, the poverty, the anxiety, the tears, the withered hopes, the bitter realities, the hunger, the crime, the humiliation, the shame, I am almost forced to say that cannibalism, after all, is the most merciful form in which man has lived upon his fellow man."

Reader, the above is not of my own creation, but is the sentiment expressed by one now gone, and who was so abused and reviled by the bigoted retainers of the capitalist system that, until this day, millions of good, well-meaning people shudder at the mere mention of his name."

With the possible exception of Jesus Christ, perhaps no man was more loved and persecuted by the pious hypocrites than Robert G. Ingersoll.

The above was uttered 21 years ago--and conditions are worse today than then. Read it again. It is as true today as then. Truth may be suppressed for a time, but it wears well, never changes, and has nothing to fear."

Truth never says, "don't investigate." It courts investigation."

The churches were loudest in the denunciation of Ingersoll, and so prejudiced the masses--whose friend and defender he was--that they would have crucified him, as Christ was crucified--and to this day many would consider it a sin to read his writings."

Yes, he was a "dangerous" man--so the cannibals of today view him. He spoke the truth, and entrenched wrong cannot stand the blazing light of Truth."

In the earlier days of the human race man would eat man. Members of one tribe would capture members of another tribe and have a feast--a "banquet" they call it today. Every teacher of history KNOWS this--but he dare not teach it. Instead he must teach the child a LIE.

There are people in the cannibalistic state of development at this very moment--in Australia, in Africa, in the southern portion of South America, and elsewhere. And we have people in the tribal stage of development in this country--the Indians. Thousands of years ago our ancestors passed through these stages."

Don't you occasionally see something in the newspapers about the cannibals? These people are not imaginary, but real."

And how far are we ahead of them? We have only improved on their methods. The result is the same--if not sometimes worse."

The cannibal of the forest will capture you and your family and have a feast. That ends it."

The cannibal of civilization will capture the means of production and says to you and your family, "Work for me or starve." And while at work you are slowly, but surely, giving him your life."

He lives from your labor power--which is your energy, your life. After you have spent your life in toil, he generously provides an old filthy poor house in which you may end your days."

Hence, with Ingersoll, I agree that "Cannibalism, after all, is the most merciful form in which man has lived upon his fellow man."

Ingersoll was a Republican of the Lincoln type."

In my earlier days I heard much of Ingersoll--but never anything good. I was trained and educated to believe him to be an imp of the devil, and to shun and hate him. It was mere chance that I learned better."

Four years ago I received a letter from a German farmer near Oran asking me to get for him Ingersoll's book. I was surprised and did not notice that he wanted the German edition. I got it in English, and when he came in he said he had the English edition, but wanted the German to send to his brother in Germany."

This left me with the book, and I read it. And I don't know when I will be able to repay that farmer for the knowledge I gained from that book. It is a flood of light and truth from cover to cover, and I can understand why the ruling class denounced this intellectual giant as a very wicked, bad man. He was a hu-

manitarian--a friend of the oppressed. Here is another gem from his now closed lips:

Slavery includes all other crimes. It is the joint product of the kidnapper, the pirate, thief, murderer and hypocrite. It degrades labor and corrupts leisure."

With the idea that labor is the basis of progress goes the truth that labor must be free. The laborer must be a free man."

I would like to see this world, at least, so that a man could die and not fret that he had left his wife and children a prey to the greed, the avarice, or the cruelty of mankind."

There is something wrong in a government where the way where the most have the least. There is something wrong when honesty wears a rag and rascality a robe; when the loving, the tender, eat a crust, while the infamous sit at banquets."

The laboring people should unite and should protect themselves against the idlers. You can divide mankind into classes--the laborers and the idlers, the supporters and the supported, the honest and the dishonest. Every man is dishonest who lives upon the unpaid labor of others, no matter if he occupies a throne."

We need free bodies and free minds--free labor and free thought; chainless hands and fetterless brains. Free labor will give us wealth. Free thought will give us truth."

There will never be a generation of men until there has been a generation of free women--of free mothers."

When women reason, and babies sit in the laps of philosophy, the victory of reason over the shadowy host of darkness will be complete."

The rights of men and women should be equal and sacred; marriage should be a perfect partnership; children should be governed by kindness; every family should be a republic; every fireside a democracy."

Away back in 1847 Abraham Lincoln uttered the following revolutionary language:

"In the early days of our race the Almighty said to the first of our race, 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread. And since then, if we except the light and air of heaven, no good thing has been or can be enjoyed by us without having first cost labor."

"And, in as much as most good things are produced by labor, it follows that all such things, of right, belong to THOSE WHOSE LABOR PRODUCED THEM."

"But it so happened, in the ages of the world, that some have labored and others have, without labor, enjoyed a large portion of the fruits."

"This is wrong and should not continue. To secure each laborer the WHOLE PRODUCT OF HIS LABOR, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy object of any good government--See Lincoln's Complete Works, Nicolay & Hay, vol. I, p. 92."

Isn't it odd that away back in 1847, at about the time Marx and Engels were printing the Manifesto, Abraham Lincoln, an unknown and self-educated lawyer in swampy Illinois, yet bold of this central concept of Socialism?

Isn't it strange that the grand old party, which always parades the NAME of Lincoln and rarely quotes the LANGUAGE of Lincoln, has given no attention to this, the greatest thought of Lincoln--THE RIGHT OF LABOR?

Then there is a very pretentious organization that has drifted away from the ideals of its founder. The Women's Christian Temperance Union is going to fix it all by abolishing the liquor traffic. But the more they "abolish," the bigger the traffic--just like the politicians with their trust-busting operations."

These people mean well, and have no trouble in tracing much evil to intemperance. But there they stop."

They should go on, as Frances Willard, the founder of their organization did, and locate the CAUSE of intemperance."

But that would estrange the "better class" from their movement and cork up the source of much revenue. Here is what Miss Willard had to say about it:

"Look about you; the products of labor are on every hand; you could not maintain for a moment a well-ordered life without them; every object in your room has in it, for discerning eyes, the mark of ingenious tools and the pressure of labor's hands. But is it not the cruellest injustice for the wealthy, whose lives are surrounded and embellished by labor's work, to have a superabundance of the money which represents the aggregate of labor in any country, while the laborer himself is kept so steady at work that he has no time to acquire the education and refinements of life that would make him and his family agreeable companions to the rich and cultured?"

"I would take, not by force, but by slow process of lawful acquisition through better legislation, as the outcome of a wiser ballot in the hands of men and

women, the entire plant that we call civilization, all that has been achieved in this continent in the four hundred years since Columbus wended his way hither, and make it the common property of all the people, requiring all to work enough with their hands to give them the finest physical development, but not to become burdensome in any case, and permitting all to share alike the advantages of education and refinement. I believe this to be perfectly practicable; indeed, that any other method is simply a relic of barbarism."

"I believe that competition is doomed. The trusts, whose single object is to abolish competition, have proved that we are better without than with it; and the moment corporations control the supply of any product they combine. What the Socialist desires is that the corporation of humanity should control all production. Beloved comrades, this is the frictionless way; it is the higher way; it eliminates the motives for a selfish life; it enacts into our everyday living the ethics of Christ's gospel. Nothing else will do it; nothing else can bring the glad day of universal brotherhood."

At a Socialist meeting in London, Eng., Miss Willard said: "Oh, that I was young again; Socialism would have my life! It is God's way out of the Wilderness and into the Promised Land. It is the very marrow of Christ's gospel. IT IS CHRISTIANITY APPLIED."

But you don't hear any modern W. C. T. U. apostles talk like that."

## THE LESSON OF IT.

### Some Interesting Side-Lights on the Bond Issue Election.

THE LESSON OF IT. There was an excuse for the black slave being in bondage. That slave system was a relic of the Dark Ages, was brought in from foreign lands and "grew up with the country."

Nobody defends it today--yet the men who opposed it fifty and sixty years ago were then very undesirable citizens."

The black slave was not only kept in ignorance, but was denied all civil rights. He had no vote. To educate him was considered wrong--if not a crime."

He was just private property--like a horse or cow."

That was the law."

But we had a big fight about it in the sixties. People said it was wrong for one human being to own another. Lincoln said, "No man has the right to own another man."

The fight lasted four years, and at the end the law was changed. Slavery was forever abolished from this country--so we were taught to believe."

There are always people who plan to live without work. These people devised a plan, and enacted laws to bolster up their plan, that beats the old chattel slave system into the dust."

It is known today as the landlord and tenant system and the wage system."

And the victims of it have saddled it on themselves, and maintain it BY THEIR VOTES."

That is the joke of it. The tenant and the wage-slave have each a vote that counts as much as that of the boss."

But they haven't learned--or else forgot how--to use it."

The black slave had no vote and no rights. He was not to blame for his condition. It was forced on him--or he was born into it."

But how about you "free born American voting kings? You have the ballot--yet millions of you are in worse shape than were the chattel slaves."

The chattel slave was comfortably housed, well fed and got the very best attention when sick--like a valuable horse or prize pup."

But how about you? If a black slave died the boss had to pay out \$1,000 for another. If you die the boss is annoyed by the many who want to take your place--free! Like the black slave they must, of course, get board and clothes."

And this is the system you vote and march and shout for?"

Don't you think you had better lay off awhile and let mother do the voting?"

As I write this, some incidents of the bond issue election of last week come in mind. When this was first proposed the workers made a big noise about what they were going to do to the bond issue. They were mad all over because it was not submitted in the first place."

On Sunday before the election a man came into the Kicker office, and what he said against the bond issue was a plenty. After listening to him a while I asked, "What do you work at?" "Farming," he said. "Where at?" He mentioned the place, about two miles southeast of Benton,

#### AN AWFUL DISASTER.

That was an awful flood that swept over parts of Ohio and Indiana last week. Thousands of lives were lost, and multiplied thousands were made homeless. Homes, business houses and factories were swept away as chaff goes before a wind. The current was so strong that the most powerful motor boats could not go against it."

It was night. Lights and fires were put out. Telephone and telegraph and railroad communication were cut off from the outside world. So terrible was the situation that fathers shot their families and then themselves to escape the suffering. When rescued hundreds were discovered to be insane--according to press reports."

What caused all this? Well, the daily papers have had very little to say about THAT."

In the earlier accounts there appeared a few lines about the Lewistown dam breaking. But this seemed a matter of so little importance that no details were attempted. So we will just have to guess at it."

Everywhere the capitalists are harnessing the rivers for power purposes. It costs more to build safe dams than unsafe ones. And the result is such disasters as the Johnstown flood a few years ago that horrified a nation, and the much greater calamity of last week. But do human lives amount to anything when balanced against holy profits?"

You will find details of the disaster on the second page."

#### NOTICE, SOCIALISTS.

There will be a county meeting of the Socialist party held at Morley, Saturday, April 19. Every local Socialist is urged to attend. He sure to turn out and help make this a good meeting."

LINSON DABBS, Co. Sec.

On Friday before the election--Good Friday--the priest at New Hamburg announced from his pulpit that County Clerk McPherson would talk in the school house, and the voters were rounded up to hear the oration. But it seems that the county clerk didn't put it strong enough, and Father Moening finished up the job."

Benton is ruled by politicians--and "the church."

Sikeston is ruled absolutely by the Big Pocket Book."

Look over the vote in these four places again and see if you can discover anything that looks like an "identity of interests" between the Big Pocket Book, the politicians and "the church."

#### PROGRESSING BACKWARD.

It is amusing, not to say disgusting, to watch the antics of our so-called "progressive" lawmakers. I reckon they are not to blame, and are doing the best they know how. They still retain the old savage ideas of "an eye for an eye," and seek to remedy all wrongs by inflicting more and heavier punishments."

In the old days--the Dark Ages--the chief bone of contention was religion. People would go to war in defense of their religion. The rulers didn't have the tariff to keep people quarreling over. And all laws were framed to protect the established religion--no matter whether Christian, Mohammedan, Buddhist, or what."

Today the bone of contention is property, and people go to war to protect "our interests," and all laws are framed to safeguard "the sacred rights of property."

In the old days the ruling class were kept busy inventing new and more cruel methods of torture for those who were even suspected of doubting anything proclaimed by the state religion. They HAD to believe--or suffer the consequences. Thousands were burned at the stake in the name of the meek and merciful Jesus, and other thousands were even more barbarously put to death. The freedom of speech, the freedom of thought and the freedom of conscience was entirely denied, and even to this day you will hear pious hypocrites denouncing the "free thinker"--the man who discovers that he has a head of his own and uses it."

These were the conditions in the Dark Ages, when "the church" ruled supreme. But we are "enlightened" now. And we are still applying the old methods--more punishment instead of more education. Every congress and every legislature creates more drastic measures to suppress crime--and crime just keeps on growing."

It never occurs to these boneheads that there might be a cause for this increase in crime, and that the removal of the cause might help some."

Congress has just enacted a law demanded by the holy railroads. People have been stealing from cars, and the new law makes it almost a crime to look crosswise at a freight or express car. Don't steal from the holy railroads. They hold a monopoly on the stealing business in the railroad line."

#### COUNTY FARM ADVISOR.

The landlords about Sikeston realize the great advantage of a county farm advisor and have a move on foot to be up to date. At first it was desired to have the territory about Sikeston, including part of New Madrid county, but this would be difficult, as the law was not framed to have one man operate in two counties."

Of a meeting held there last week the Sikeston Standard says: "The chair appointed a committee to wait on the county court to see what help could be obtained from them. From expressions of those present it is safe to say there will either be a Scott county advisor, or a SIKESTON DISTRICT ADVISOR."

Sleep on, you hill farmers. It wouldn't do to wake up. "What always has been always will be," you know. If a Sikeston district advisor is installed you won't mind helping to foot the bill--even if you get none of the benefits."

#### CHATTLE OR WAGE-SLAVERY?

Say, Mr. Hired Man, when you get sick or crippled, don't you wish you were of as much importance as a chattel slave of 50 years ago? I don't mean just common laborers alone or tramps but you \$50 a month counter-hoppers that think you are it. The difference between you and the tramp is that he gets an occasional "job" and you get an occasional "position." At the end of the year you are in debt, but the tramp isn't."

As compared with the black slave, when he got sick he got the best of medical attention--the same as a fine horse or cow does today."

Does your boss ever worry about the attention you get when you are sick?"

Oh, you fool! Not as well off as a chattel slave--and yet you will try to look wise and imagine yourself smart--just as I used to when I owed for the clothes on my back."

#### PUZZLED TOMMY.

"Pa," said Tommy, "my Sunday school teacher says if I'm good I'll go to heaven."

"Well, you said about it?"

"Well, you said if I was good I'd go to the circus. Now I want to know who's fibbing to me, you or her."

## IN THE SOUTHEAST.

### What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

While the Democratic papers of Charleston have been filling their columns with society slush, the Republican has been telling something about the moral conditions of that town. This, of course, always produces a howl from the "sawtooth" element about "hurting the town," and the Republican, last week, handed them this: "To call attention to the many transgressions against organized society, brings about that character of criticism which proves a very effective wake-up medicine for the fogies, fossils, and men who profit by outrages on the morals of a civilized community--and who would hide the skeleton, for the fear of hurting business or the reputation of the community with the outside world."

An unidentified young woman was caught floating in the river near Thompson's Landing last week--the body being badly decomposed. There were no marks of violence, nor anything on her person by which she could be identified. She is reported as a handsome young woman of the brunette type, between 18 and 20 years, about five feet two inches in height, weighing about 110 pounds. She was dressed stylishly in a green dress, blue serge coat, black silk stockings and feet well groomed in a pair of high heeled calf shoes. She wore a gold button with a figure "4" engraved on it."

Jackson Items.--Wm. Dankel, the oldest son of Chas. Dankel, the merchant at Houck lies in a precarious condition at his father's home, completely paralyzed, the result of a strange accident. Monday evening a horse which was hitched to a post of the north side of his father's store, became frightened and young Dankel went there to quiet the animal, but instead of succeeding the horse made another lunge and tore the post loose, which fell and struck the young man on the back of the head, resulting in a fracture of the skull, and from this complete paralysis resulted."

In Cape county the farmers are organizing for co-operation. A news item in the Jackson Items from the little neighborhood of New Wells says "County Farm Advisor McWilliams and Prof. Doyle came to New Wells to speak on agriculture and organized a farmers club. Twenty-seven men joined and at the next meeting which will be held April 1, the membership will be doubled. That is in Cape county where the farmers mostly own their homes. But the bosses here would not favor any organization of farmers here. They can handle them better as individuals."

Jackson Cashbook.--Chas. Stewart and Lawson Moore, drunk, were driving a hired livery team about the streets of Farmington. One of the horses became unruly and the men tied a chord around its tongue and pulled it out. The two men were arrested and jailed. They are nearly as guilty in the sight of Heaven as the saloon keeper, the saloon petitioners and the State that made them drunk and turned them into human beasts."

Hayti Herald.--Henry Porter was burned severely by his pipe setting fire to his pocket last Saturday night, as he was going home. After it caught fire the strong wind fanned it, and one of his hands was so severely burned that it is thought that his fingers will have to come off near his hand. Both legs and the small of his back were badly burned. The doctor said that he would not likely get over it for two or three months."

Ironton Register.--C. P. Damron and T. D. Jones were in Doniphan last Friday. On their way home they saw much of the ruin wrought by the wind storm of that section Thursday. Houses were turned over, roofs blown away, and forests of trees torn up by the roots. The storm extended from Poplar Bluff into Arkansas."

Subscribe for the only Kicker.

# Every Worker

Who earns Bread in the Sweat of his face should be a patron of

# The Kicker